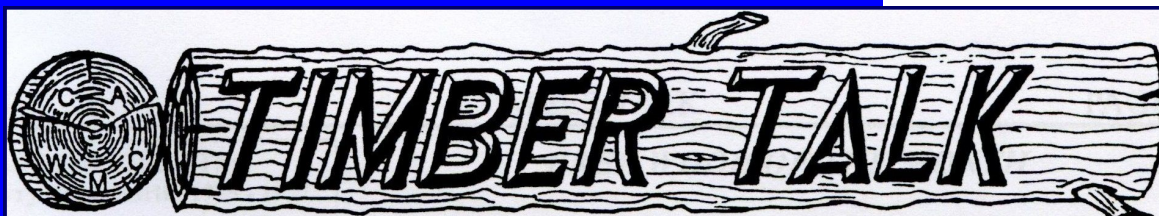




C.A.W.M.C. was founded January 1st, 1975

Volume 42, Issue 10

October 2016



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**July 26, 2015-
July / Aug. 2017**
(depending on 2017 date of
RCNA convention)

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france@waychison.com

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Membership Chairman:**
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Elected Members of Board of Governors:

Al Munro (Chairman)
Norm Belsten
Richard Blaylock,
Russell Brown,
Wayne Gillcash,
Dave Gillespie,
James Williston

President's Message

I would like to thank **Al Munro**, our Past President, who kindly agreed to substitute for me in the September issue, as I spent my first summer as a retiree criss-crossing the province of Quebec and spending time with my seven (7) siblings, making up for the last 20 years, when there was just no time to go and bug each one of them in their own territory. Fabulous!

A huge thank you to **Bill English** for his generous donation of his share of our 50-50 draw and to **Carolyn** and **Dave Gillespie** (hey, I am French, so ladies' names first!), whose creativity and generosity in giving time and material for our annual fundraiser never ceases to amaze me. Thank you also to **Ross Kingdon** for handling the Free Wood of the month program. Thank you to **Lloyd Chan** for the photo below. Thank you to **Norm Belsten** for his many years of super service as CAWMC official convention wood producer, enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

I would also like to remind you of our *Editor's Challenge* (page 6), sponsored by our Editor, **Judy Blackman**. It is designed to encourage current members to recruit friends, fellow collectors and family to join our ranks. We are fun people and a fun organization to belong to, let it be known! Our Editor also advises that she has received some articles for future issues of the TT. Thanks to all our writers. Please keep them coming!

You can reach me at **France D. Waychison**, P.O. Box 466, Timmins ON P4N 7E3 or at france@waychison.com. Have a good month of October everybody! Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Halloween!

Keep well,
France



Chips from my Woodpile

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that attended the C.A.W.M.C. Breakfast supported the Fundraiser hand painted wood.

Dave & Carolyn Gillespie

That being said Let the Chips lie where they fall.



Nenana RV Park & Campground woods by David (Rusty) Phillips / Olde Fiddle Foot

Whilst on a driving trip up the Parks Highway in Alaska, in July, I stopped in the town of Nenana and checked around to see if there were any new wooden tokens / nickels at any of the businesses in town.

I was in luck! I was directed to the Nenana RV Park & Campground where there were rumoured to be a new wood or two...

I was greeted there by a very kind and helpful lady, Jaime Landrum, one of the relatively new co-owners of the Park & Campground business (Jaime & Brian Landrum bought the RV Park & Campground less than a year ago! It had been established in Nenana in 1996...).



These woods are the regular 1-1/2" (38mm) in size. 200 have a sticker attached to one side only. The other side is blank. An additional 20 have red writing, eg. "1 FREE MINI GOLF" on one side, and Jaime's initials, in red, on the other side.

Since there is no definitive attribution on these two woods, I have taken the liberty of photo-copying the Park & Campground's logo, from it's brochure, reduced it to approximately the same size as the woods. This is done to show from where these woods come...

My Thanks to Jaime for cheerfully supplying me with the info above! (She & Brian welcome any travellers to their RV Park & Campground – May-Sept. Full services and very reasonable rates!!! Do drop by!!)

Editor's Note:

The Landrum's "Good Sam" rated RV Park & Campground is located near the Alaska Railroad Depot Museum, the Cultural Center, the Farmers Market & Crafts, Fishwheel, Ice Classic Watchtower, St. Mark's Log Church, Taku Chief River Boat, Bill Cotter Sled Dog Puppies, Coghill's General Store, post office, gift shops, medical services, restaurants, Senior Citizens Centre, and much more. The family and pet-friendly grounds treat guests to nature's light show, Aurora Borealis (Norther Lights), mini-golf, picnic tables, fire pit, pavilion, playground, bicycles (and 4-wheel, 2 person bicycle), mini store, library exchange, DVD rentals, and has RV storage, secure Wi-Fi, showers, clean restrooms, handicap accessibility, dump station, water hookup, electric hookup, propane tanks, and lots are 45 spaces (all pull-thru 18x62), room for slideouts, some shaded lots, and tent camping too. Nenana RV Park & Campground is located at 210 E. 4th St., Nenana, AK 99760, office 907-832-5230 (May-Sept) or cell 907-328-9398 (off season). The are just off the George Parks Highway with Fairbanks to the north and Denali to south.

Jaime shared that "in November 2015, after a surprised discovery and months of discussion and prayer, Jaime and Brian bought the Nenana RV Park & Campground. Jaime says the name Nenana means a great place to camp between two rivers. Nenana is home to the Ice Classic (tripod), a world-wide betting pool system where people bet to the exact second when they think the river that runs alongside Nenana will crack and begin its summer thaw. Once it does, the barge will begin running to take the large items and bush shopping down the river with its final destinations off the Yukon River at villages like our home of Galena and the other smaller villages near Galena. This is how we first encountered Nenana ourselves when we moved to Alaska, taking our first barge loads that were to be carried downriver to our home in Galena. At that time we admired the little village of Nenana remarking how we like the charm and rural living it seemed to possess while still being in such a wonderful location. Quiet and indigenous, Nenana seems comparable in size and lifestyle to Galena yet distinctly different with Nenana being connected to the road system while Galena is and most likely always will be only accessible by plane, or boat over the summer." Jaime maintains a blog "Lots of Landrums" and archives family newsletters, and instagrams family photos. The Ice Classic prizes can run in the hundreds of thousands.



Seaman Furniture and Appliances by Al Munro

Lindsay Seaman operated a furniture store, Seaman Furniture and Appliances, in Elgin (Ontario) from around 1960 until he died in 1998. His son Rev. Shaun Seaman, now a minister for Trinity Presbyterian Church in Kanata (Ontario), says he recalls a wooden nickel in the mid-1960s. The Canadian Wooden Money Catalogue shows wood #5276-001 for Seaman Furniture in Elgin, but does not show a picture.

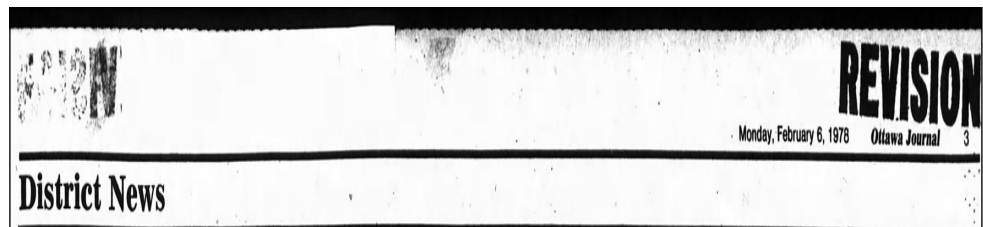
In July 2016, I obtained a WOODEN BUCK token for Seaman Furniture and Appliances with a phone number of 283-2121 which appears to be a Smith Falls number and not an Elgin number. Shaun Seaman confirmed his father operated a branch store in Smith Falls and in Brockville, Gananoque and Kingston. Shaun does not recall which store issued the wooden token or if more than one store issued wooden tokens. I believe this token is from Smith Falls not Elgin.



Shaun advises that he is not aware of any family members having any of the wooden nickels in their possession. If anyone has a Seaman Furniture wood with a phone number other than 283-2121, I would like to see a scan of it. You can contact me at wood5cents@shaw.ca or phone 403-273-6133. Thanks.

Editor's Note:

Possibly any remaining woods (not distributed) were destroyed in the fire in 1978. See Elgin store phone number below in this Admiral TV ad.



Fire destroys Elgin store

ELGIN — A \$400,000 fire Saturday destroyed most of the Seaman furniture company store and warehouse in this village 48 kilometres northwest of Brockville. Four area fire departments fought the fire for four hours in weather as cold as minus 29 C. A motorist passing Elgin on nearby Highway 15 at 6:45 a. m. spotted the smoke and alerted villagers who called in the South Crosby Township Fire Brigade. An Ontario fire marshal's office investigator, Dave Shorey, of Brockville, is investigating the cause of the fire. Elgin's last major fire 10 years ago, occurred in the same building. Lindsay Seaman, the owner, said he had just received a large shipment of new furniture and appliances for his annual February sale. The new stock is a complete loss but Seaman announced that he would rebuild the store. E. J. Kenney, who resides across the street from the store, said he was awakened by the motorist pounding on his door. Kenney called the local fire department which requested assistance from departments in Portland, Delta, and Seeleys Bay. "While I was looking out of the window, the store windows blew out on the north side where the office is located," said Kenney. "Flames shot 100 feet into the air and the whole building seemed to be on fire."





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Assistant Editor:
Norm Belsten

**Distribution & Featured
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Ross Kingdon

Fund Raiser:
Lou Vesh & Dave Gillespie

**Auction Co-ordinator and
Membership Dues:**
Al Munro

**Annual Membership Dues
in Canadian Association of
Wooden Money Collectors
are:**

- **Canadian Residents:**
\$10, Cdn. Funds
- **Youth (16 years old
and under) \$5 Cdn.
Funds**
- **U.S. A. Residents:**
\$10 U.S. Funds
- **International
Members Rate
(outside Cda. -
U.S.A.): \$20 Cdn.
Funds**

Dues paid to:

Mr. Al Munro, P.O. Box
2643, Station M, Calgary,
Alberta, T2P 3C1, Canada



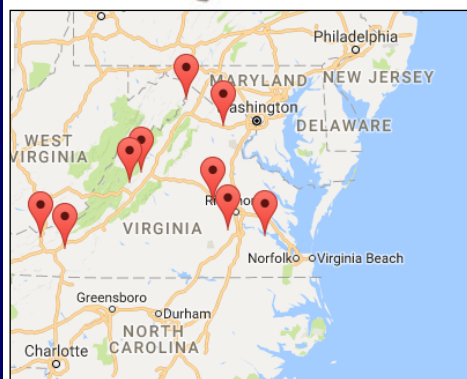
"Pass It On"—Camp Powhatan 2016

The Commonwealth of Virginia Order of the Arrow "Pass It On Section SR-7A Boy Scouts of America Conclave" was held at Camp Powhatan (Hiwassee, Virginia) April 29 to May 1, 2016. This multi-coloured wood was issued to attendees to commemorate the event. The Host Lodge was Tutelo 161. Attendance was 1,006. Coordinator was Warren Crandall and the Advisor was David Rutherford.



Front

Reverse



Section SR-7A, which is comprised of the six Order of the Arrow lodges headquartered in Virginia, was formed in 1998. There are over 280 conclave items (including woods) listed along with over 150 delegate flaps on the SR-7A website. This map is the current VA Boy Scout Camps.

Raggedy Land 2016 Wood

Raggedy Land has issued its 20th annual wood since opening in 1998. It started with Version 1 and version 2 woods (red) issued for the 9th Raggedy Ann & Andy Festival held in Arcola (Illinois). A wood was then issued for each of Festivals 10-19 held respectively 1999-2008 (red/red, red/red, turquoise/turquoise, red/red, red/red, black/black, purple/purple, green/green, maroon/maroon, and then black/black). Every year the obverse and reverse were new designs. The festival was no longer held 2010-2016, but Raggedy Land continue to issue an annual wood each year (black/red, black/black, brown/brown, turquoise/turquoise, dark green/ dark green, brown/brown, turquoise/turquoise, full colour/full colour, and then navy/navy). The 2015 wood obverse was Raggedy Ann patent, two views, coloured with the wording "Happy 100th Birthday Raggedy Ann 1915-2015" and the reverse Raggedy Ann & Raggedy Andy in chair and the wording "2015 www.raggedyland.com" with a vintage theme. Raggedy Land is operated by Charles & Cheryl Platt, 131 Northridge Drive, Macon, GA 31220-6641, phone: 478-757-0001, or e-mail info@raggedyland.com.



**Past Presidents:**

2006–2015:
 Al Munro
2003–2005:
 Norm Belsten
2001–2003:
 Earl Salterio*
1995–2001:
 Lou Vesh
1991–1995:
 Pat White*
1985–1991:
 Norm Belsten
1983–1985:
 Neil Probert
1981–1983:
 Stanley Clute
1979–1981:
 Don Robb
1977–1979:
 Victor Hall*
1975–1977:
 Garry Braunwarth

The **C.A.W.M.C.** was founded on **January 1st, 1975**, by **Garry Braunwarth** (C-1) (pictured below) and **Victor B. Hall** (C-2) in Calgary, Alberta. In addition to the founders, these are the 43 other original charter members.

C- 3 George Parfet
 C- 4 Leslie D. Copan
 C- 5 Norm Williams
 C- 6 Harold Butner
 C- 7 Frank J. DeGilio
 C- 8 N. R. Mack
 C- 9 Clarence C. Kramer
 C-10 Steve Penzes
 C-11 Alice Penzes
 C-12 Thomas W. King
 C-13 Tom Hudson
 C-14 Earl O'Cathey
 C-15 John K. Curtis
 C-16 Frank Harding
 C-17 Norman E. Wells
 C-18 John M. Plasterer
 C-19 Mary K. Plasterer
 C-20 Donna Streeter
 C-21 Gelvin Leeper
 C-22 Laura Foust
 C-23 Bruce Watt
 C-24 Rusty Bailey
 C-25 Bernice B. Fiedler
 C-26 Donald J. Thibodeau
 C-27 Donald J. Smith
 C-28 C. O. T. Y. Club
 C-29 James L. Betton, Jr.
 C-30 J. Douglas Ferguson
 C-31 Carolyn Hansen
 C-32 Tenino Wooden Money Society
 C-33 Reginald R. Smith
 C-34 Basil Latham
 C-35 Ricky Morse
 C-36 Don Stewart
 C-37 Mrs. M. Miners
 C-38 G. B. Davis
 C-39 Stanley M. Carling
 C-40 Gilvin A. (Corky) Ayers
 C-41 Don Cole
 C-42 Ernest Ruch
 C-43 Gerald A. Hathaway
 C-44 Robert S. Ross
 C-45 Norman R. Belsten

Garry Braunwarth >>>



Medicine Hat Coin & Stamp Club

Free Wood of the Month of October 2016 reported by Ross Kingdon

Our featured wood is a 2016 **Medicine Hat Coin & Stamp Club** wooden nickel #8700-016 issued to promote the club's annual show.



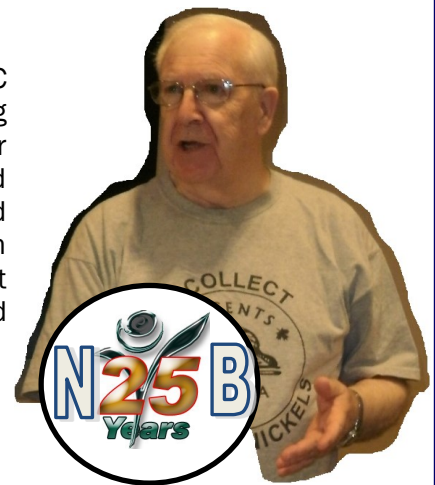
Upcoming Featured Woods: (note: if we receive a donation of a NEW wood, we will insert it and push the schedule out farther)

- ♦ *Edmonton Boston Pizza Grey Cup* (8300 - 121) black/black 38mm from 2010 -The annual Grey Cup Canadian football championship is always held in late Nov.
- ♦ *Art Stephenson Xmas Wood* – December 2016– I have at least four woods from the collection of the late Art Stephenson given to me by Al Munro. We'll feature his (5076-023) Camels Xmas year 2008 45mm gold/green
- ♦ *West Edmonton Coin & Stamp* – January 2017 (8300-132)
- ♦ *Sunday Calgary Coin Club 2016* - February 2017
- ♦ *Your Team* (8140 - 430) 38mm blue/blue Calgary from Al Munro - March 2017
- ♦ *RCNA Convention 2016 / Ross Kingdon*–April 2017 (from Ross Kingdon, made by CWW–James Williston)
- ♦ *Sovereign Coin Shop / Appraisals Consignments* Hamilton (1,000 made 2012)– May 2017(from Al Munro)
- ♦ *West Edmonton Coin & Stamp* – June 2017 (8300-137)
- ♦ *Timmins C. C. / Canada 150th Anniv.*–July 2017 (from France Waychison, made by CWW–James Williston)
- ♦ August, and September, 2017–*to be advised (donations welcomed)*
- ♦ *West Edmonton Coin & Stamp* – October 2017 (8300-133)
- ♦ November, and December 2017 and January 2018–*to be advised (donations welcomed)*
- ♦ *West Edmonton Coin & Stamp* – February 2018 (8300-138)
- ♦ March, April, May, June, July 2018–*to be advised (donations welcomed)*
- ♦ *West Edmonton Coin & Stamp* – August 2018 (8300-134) - this is the last wood in the 8-wood series
- ♦ September, October, November, December 2018–*to be advised (donations welcomed)*

Norm's Hot Stamping

"As of December 31st, 2016, I (Norm Belsten, CAWMC LM C45) will no longer be taking orders for stamping woods. I would like to thank my loyal customers for their support over the last 25 years. I want to spend more time on my collections and cataloging, as I find due to other commitments, that I don't have as much time as I used to. If you want a wood made, I suggest you contact Canada Wide Woods (James Williston), and CWW would be happy to help you."

**THANK YOU NORM BELSTEN
FOR YOUR TERRIFIC SERVICE!**





History of CAWMC
Timber Talk
Newsletter
Editors

Jan. 1975 – Sept. 1979
Garry Braunwarth

Oct. 1979 – July 1981
Stan Clute

Aug. 1981 – July 1983
Albert Kasman

Aug. 1983 – Oct. 1992
Garry Braunwarth

Nov. 1992 – Dec. 1994
Lou Vesh

Jan. 1995 – Aug. 2008
Ross Kingdon
(14 years!!!)



Above is a Dan Gosling photo
of Ross Kingdon

Sept. 2008 – Dec. 2009
Tony Hine

Jan. 2010 – Aug. 2010
Norm Belsten

Sept. 2010 – Current
Judy Blackman, F.O.N.A.



Summer Travel Discoveries

by Al Munro



Found these woods at a craft show in Port Colborne, Ontario (#5277-005-006-007). The lady sells laser produced wooden postcards. She said she used dozens of varieties but now only makes the moose and the beaver. We found only one of the third design in the wood she had with her. The common design reads Etching Muskoka, Laser Engraving (established in 2014), 705-349-3824, www.etchingmuskoka.ca. Google shows Elmsdale, Ontario as the home base.



This is a Eastern Canada & Caribbean Kiwanis wood found by Marion, in Kingston. No additional details known. The Kiwanis Music Festival was held in St. John's (Nfld.) in 1991, and in 2015, the contents of the time capsule enclosed in 1991 were revealed which included some of these souvenir woods issued at the 1991 event.



Anyone with a 5400-029 wood, please contact me (Al Munro). Next we discovered a new variety (left) of the Beginning & Bygones Hamilton wood. Possibly this one was an error as it reads Bygone BEGINNINGS & BYGONES.

Or it is possible this is #5400-029 which we do not have a picture in the catalogue of.

(Right) is the one in the catalogue.



5400-001
HAMILTON, ONT
BEGINNINGS & BYGONES
YR: 1974 ISSUED:
COLOUR: OBV BL
COLOUR: REV BL
RATING: 4 SHAPE: RD
SIZE: 32

Editor's Challenge

Judy Blackman, our Editor, would like to invite CAWMC members to bring in new members. Each CAWMC member bringing one (1) new member will **receive a prize**. If the same CAWMC member refers three (3) or more members, this person will **receive a special prize**. If one of the new member pays two (2) years (or more) dues up front, the referring member will **receive an additional reward**. This challenge is in place July 2016 running through the end of June 2017. All prizes are graciously provided by our Editor.

CAWMC members have to ensure that the new member(s) confirm who referred them to CAWMC, and that Judy is informed so that she can promptly send the rewards to the referring CAWMC member(s).



**Go TAKE THE
CHALLENGE Today!**

Pope John Paul II 1984 Visit to Canada by John Regitko, CAWMC Life Member #LM265

As I was going through the Belsten wooden money catalogue recently, I stumbled across a 38mm wood (blue obverse, red reverse) of which 300 were issued out of Sydney, NS in 2005 (Belsten #2850-023). Nobody seems to have issued a wood to commemorate the Pope's 2002 visit to Canada.



John Paul first visited Canada in 1984 for a 12-day pilgrimage, the first pope ever to do so (it was John Paul's first visit to Canada as Pope, but he had been in Canada on two previous occasions, in 1969 and in 1976).

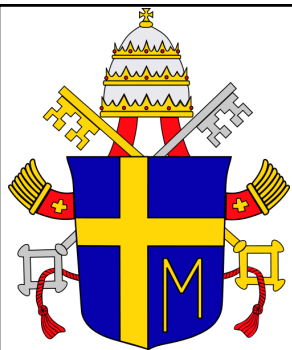
He returned to Canada in 1987 to fulfill a promise to visit the Northwest Territories. His scheduled visit to Fort Simpson had to be cancelled during his 1984 tour because the airport was snowed in. The Pope's third visit to Canada was in 2002 at the age of 82, when the visibly frail pontiff attended World Youth Day festivities in Toronto in which over a million people participated.

Karol Józef Wojtyła was born in Wadowice, Poland on May 18, 1920. He was one-fifth Jewish and learned to speak Yiddish, becoming the first pope to do so.

He became a stonecutter in 1940 and later found a labourer's job. He secretly entered studies for the priesthood in Krakow's underground seminary. He became a priest in 1946 at the age of 26, became the youngest bishop in modern Polish history at age 38 and a cardinal at age 47. He became Pope at age 58.



His visit to Toronto included mass at Downsview Park, where a crowd estimated at 800,000 attended. (2002, World Youth Day)



The Coat of Arms of Pope John Paul II with the Marian Cross. The Marian Cross consists of a traditional Latin cross with the crossbar extended on the right, and a letter "M" (for Mary, mother of Jesus) in the lower right quadrant.

John Paul II held the papacy since October 16, 1978. He succeeded John Paul I, Albino Luciani, who died after only 33 days in office. On October 16, 2003 John Paul II celebrated the 25th anniversary of his pontificate, and he became the third longest-reigning pope on March 14, 2004.

He holds numerous entries in the Vatican Book of Records. He was the first Slavic pope and the first non-Italian since Adrian VI (a Dutchman from Utrecht who died in 1523). He visited 130 countries and logged more miles than all other popes combined, earning him the nickname "the Pilgrim Pope."

He met with over 800 heads of state and prime ministers. He spoke 11 languages. He was the first head of the Vatican to ride in a popemobile. During 1995's World Youth Day he spoke to a crowd of four million, the largest gathering before a pontificate.

On May 13, 1981, John Paul II survived an assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square when a 23-year-old Turk fired three shots at close range, wounding the Pope in the abdomen, the left hand and right arm. John Paul II underwent five hours of surgery. He later visited his would-be assassin in his prison cell to forgive him.

He died on April 2, 2005. His funeral was held Friday, April 8th. He is interred under a marble slab in St. Peter's Basilica.

THE POPEMOBILE

The vehicle which carried the Pope during his Canadian visit in 1984 (shown at the White House in the photo), was one of two "popemobiles" purchased by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. The vehicles, built to be transported by a Hercules plane, were flown everywhere the pope travelled in the country. The Popemobiles were built by Camions Pierre

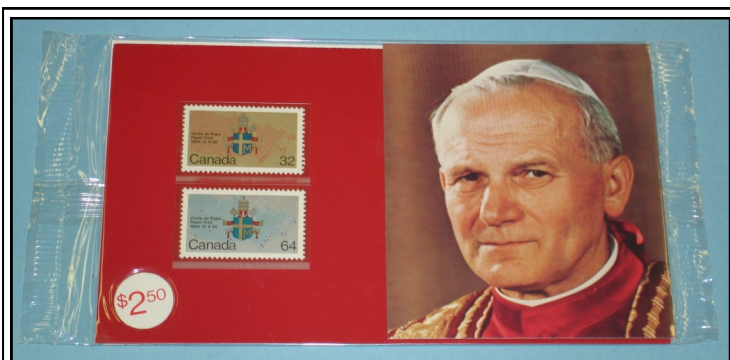
Thibault of Pierreville, Quebec. The vehicles were offered by General Motors of Canada and Lexguard bullet proof plastic was donated by Canadian General Electric. The Popemobile, which can be seen at the Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa, was also used during the Pope's tour in Cuba.



Numerous countries issued commemorative coins in honour of Pope John Paul II, including Congo (4 coins in top row) and Philippines (left), in addition to Canada, Poland and Italy.



The 2 Euro coin introduced on September 28, 2007 when Italy joined the European Union, shows Pope Paul John II on the reverse.



Canada issued postage stamps honouring the Pope (one of 32 cents gold in colour, the second of 64 cents silver in colour). The Royal Canadian Mint also immortalized the Pope by issuing a non-circulating collectible 2005 \$10 pure silver proof coin.



The Canadian build Popemobile was used by John Paul II during his 2002 Canadian and U.S. visit.



A commemorative note from Poland featuring Pope Paul John II contains a special watermark of his papal coat of arms. Each side bears the motif of the Keys of St. Peter, representing papal authority. All serial numbers begin with the letters JP, for Jan Pawel (or John Paul). The globe behind the Pope is micro-engraved with the names (in Polish) of every single country that he visited during his papacy, more than 125 in all.



Poland, the birthplace of Paul John II, has featured the Pope on a number of commemorative coins.

Alberta Woods— “Bertie Beaver” by Eric Jensen, CAWMC #499

Tim Saunders of Calgary recently came up with a new Alberta wood with the image of “Bertie Beaver.”



Irregular - Average 54 mm - 5.3 mm Thick - Black Image

The only existing woods that I am aware of with “Bertie Beaver” are in Norm Belsten’s woods catalogue reported as being issued in Peace River (reference 8750-003 and 8750-004). We recommend that this new wood be catalogued under Alberta General since “Bertie Beaver” is a province wide forestry mascot and we have not yet been able to attribute this wood to a specific community.

We have catalogued three “Bertie Beaver” medallions in “Alberta Medallions & Similar Type Stuff” associated with Lac La Biche, Alberta as the first one I was made aware of was from there. A fourth one was added in as from Edmonton where the Alberta Provincial Forest Fire Centre is located. In retrospect, all but the Lac La Biche medallion could have been listed in Alberta General.



“Bertie Beaver” is an Alberta Forestry mascot, similar to “Smokey The Bear”, who was created by Walt Disney Studios in 1958 for the Alberta Forest Service. I am sure that many communities associated with the forestry industry have used the

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ASSOCIATION

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Timber Talk awarded
in July 2012, R.C.N.A.*Best Regional /
National Newsletter.*Thank you to all who
contribute to making
TT the success it is!CAWMC is a member
of RCNA and the
SOC of CAWMC is a
member of the ONA

image over the years, especially given the number of posters, pins, badges, stuffed animals and the many other collectibles that have been issued.

Issue No.5 | February | 2008

TRAILS & TALES

Newsletter of the Forest History Association of Alberta

Bertie Beaver turns 50!



Born on the drawing boards of Walt Disney's Buena Vista Studios, Bertie Beaver was offered as a gift to the Alberta Forest Service in appreciation of support provided to Walt Disney's film crews working in Kananaskis Country in 1956 and 1957. For 50 years Bertie has been a messenger of stewardship, land and forest management and fire prevention; with a simple message 'Keep Alberta Green'. He has been to many schools and community events over the years and has assisted young 'rang-ers' plant thousands of trees. Happy Birthday Bertie!

*The Forestry Chronicle*, 2014, 90(2): 137-139, 10.5558/tfc2014-028

OLD GROWTH + FORÊTS ANCIENNES

Alberta's Wildfire and Forest Management Mascot – Bertie Beaver

Born on the drawing boards of Walt Disney's Buena Vista Studios, Bertie Beaver was offered as the image of forest fire control and forest management as a gift to the people of Alberta in 1958. This symbol was created to encourage public awareness of forest fire prevention programs. The gift was in appreciation of the support provided by the Alberta Department of Lands and

Forests to Walt Disney and his film crews working in Kananaskis in the mid-1950s to complete several wildlife film documentaries, one of which was "Nikki, Wild Dog of the North".

During the 1950s, the image of "Smokey the Bear" was widely known across the United States as an important symbol of fire prevention. While a number of Canadian provinces adopted "Smokey the Bear" as their forest protection symbol, Alberta's use of Smokey was rather short-lived. Only a few Alberta Forest Service "Smokey the Bear" posters and other collectables were produced. By the mid-1950s, Eric S. Huestis, Alberta's Forestry Director and Game Commissioner, strongly felt that Alberta should have its own distinct image to deliver fire prevention messages to the public. Walt Disney agreed, and set his staff to work preparing sample images for fire poster designs.

Over the years, Bertie's image has appeared on aircraft, rock wall murals, wildfire posters, buttons, pins, forest maps, recreation area signs, student activity books, and he has even been a plush toy and puppet. Away from his lodge, Bertie has marched in countless community parades, visited hundreds of schools, and has hugged and "high fived" tens of thousands of children. His



First in a series of fire control messages with Bertie Beaver, 1958.



Fire prevention message with Bertie Beaver, early 1960s.

enthusiasm in promoting forest conservation and environmental education values in Alberta remains timeless.

Bruce Mayer

Asst. Dep. Minister

Alberta Environment and

Sustainable Resource Development

[Bruce is also secretary/treasurer of the Forest History Association of Alberta]